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## DULLES BRANDED BOTH "BUMBLER" AND STATESMAN

SECRETARY OF STATE WHO  
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FEELINGS

However, Despite The Divergent  
Views Of The Public, He Has  
Remained "Tops" With The  
Boss, The President

By Howard Handleman

WASHINGTON — John Foster Dulles reaches his 68th birthday tomorrow as one of the most controversial figures in American public life.

To some he is a master statesman, to others a bumbler, but to almost all he is a secretary of state who raises strong feelings.

There are few neutrals in discussions about John Foster Dulles.

Even as the secretary prepared to observe his birthday quietly in his Georgetown home he was the center of a blazing debate over the shipment of tanks to Saudi Arabia.

It was the kind of struggle that has marked every step of his way since he became secretary of state for President Eisenhower on Jan. 21, 1953, the first man the President appointed to his cabinet.

A mere listing of the terms Dulles used and the problems he tackled during the last three years provide a thumbnail sketch of his story. There was "massive retaliation" and the Korean armistice, "deterrence" and Dienbienphu, the offshore islands and EDC, Trieste and "The Summit," Iran and "the Geneva Spirit," SEATO and the Brink of War."

Each was a foreign policy crisis of about the same magnitude as the current one over Israel and the Arabs. In the midst of each Dulles appeared to some as the master diplomatic tactician, to others as a mistaken or even inflexible man.

But to one American Dulles always has seemed tops. That is President Eisenhower. Once, when Dulles was under particular attack in the country, the President told the nation by TV and radio that Dulles was the best secretary of state he had known.

Certainly Dulles trained for the job. He must have known always that he wanted to be secretary of state. His grandfather, John W. Foster, was secretary for President Harrison. His uncle, Robert Lansing, was secretary for President Wilson.

Dulles was born in Washington, D. C., at the home of his grandfather Foster. He was raised in Watertown, N. Y., where his father served as a Presbyterian minister.

It was as a boy in Watertown that Dulles became entranced with the idea of peace, quiet and rest that was symbolized by an island far out on Lake Ontario. On a clear day Dulles could see the island. As he grew older he and his brother, Allen, sometimes sailed a boat out to the island.

Dulles never forgot the island and in later years, when he was a successful lawyer, he went through a complicated international real estate deal to buy Duck Island for himself. As secretary, Dulles flies to Duck Island with his wife every chance he gets to rest in the rustic cabin where they stay alone. At the cabin Dulles likes to chop wood, cook flapjacks, hike and even make maple syrup.

The secretary likes to tell how within his memory Buffalo lived on the island and that later, during prohibition days, it was a Canadian outpost for a gang of runners.

Dulles went on his first diplomatic mission 49 years ago.

His grandfather Foster took Dulles along to the Hague for the peace conference of 1907. Dulles, then a 19-year-old Princeton student, was employed by the secretariat.

Next year Dulles was graduated as valedictorian of his class at Princeton and member of Phi Beta Kappa. He spent another year studying at the Sorbonne in Paris and then returned for law studies at George Washington University.

From law school Dulles moved to the New York law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell, with which he was still associated 42 years later when he became secretary of state.

President Wilson sent Dulles to Panama in 1917 to help arrange a regional defense of the canal during World War I. And later he became an officer and at the end of the war was an adviser on the staff of President Wilson at the Versailles peace conference.

In 1927 Dulles was legal adviser on the Polish plan of financial stabilization and in 1933 was a representative of the Berlin debt conference. In 1938, on his own, Dulles made a detailed study of

the political and economic situation in the Far East.

Dulles turned to politics in 1944 as foreign policy adviser to Thomas E. Dewey, the Republican candidate for President. During the campaign Dulles became a close friend of the late Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg who later recommended Dulles for a place at the United Nations conference at San Francisco in 1945. Dulles served as a delegate to U. N. in four later years.

In 1950 Dulles was named ambassador with the special mission of working on the Japanese peace treaty.

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